Christian Community

Volume 9, No. 6 June, 1957

Coming in September

Beginning with our next issue in September, *Christian Community* will become the jointly produced newsletter of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission. This will replace *Workshop,* which was distributed by the Council for Social Action as its newsletter to local church social action committees.

As heretofore, *Christian Community* will be mailed to all pastors and local social action committee chairmen, as well as Women's Guild Christian social action chairmen in our denomination. We expect to continue encouraging group subscriptions at the bundle rate of 50c per year for ten or more to one address.

At the same time, *Social Action* magazine, which has had a long and honored history as a publication of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches, more recently sponsored also by the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, will be completely planned and edited on a joint basis. Its contents will be more fully integrated into the interests and program of the new Council for Christian Social Action. At the same time, it is hoped, the attractive format and high quality of content, which it has enjoyed under the editorship of Dr. F. Ernest Johnson, will continue.

The editorial board, consisting of four Evangelical and Reformed and four Congregational Christian nominees will have general oversight of the journal. Pending further action by the United Council in October, Miss Fern Babcock, Program Secretary of the Council for Social Action, will serve as editor. Her long experience in the preparation of program material for the Y.W.C.A. assures us that continued attention will be given both to content and to reading appeal, which should make the magazine increasingly welcome in our churches and women's and laymen's groups.

Except for the above specified persons who will receive *Christian Community* and for bundle orders, *Christian Com-*

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NAME 24 TO COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION

Prepare Joint Program as Churches Unite

According to the Basis of Union, when the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches unite in the United Church of Christ at the Uniting General Synod on June 25-27 at Cleveland, one of the important items of business will be the election of the Council for Christian Social Action.

The Council for Christian Social Action, according to the Basis of the Union, is composed of twenty-four persons, of whom originally twelve shall be members of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and twelve Congregational Christians. Their terms of office shall be six years and they shall be elected in classes of eight each, the terms of one class expiring every second year at the time of the regular biennial meeting of the General Synod.

It has been recognized by the Council for Social Action, the Commission on Christian Social Action, and the over-all planning bodies of the two denominations that during the next few years it will be important to maintain the identity of the existing agencies of the two denominations. There will continue to be a Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the corresponding body in the Congregational Christian Churches.

In order that wherever possible work may be delegated most efficiently to the new body, the Uniting General Synod will be asked to elect to the new Council the twelve Evangelical and Reformed persons who at present make up the Commission on Christian Social Action and twelve person to be designated by the Council for Social Action from its own number.

Subject to the approval of the Uniting General Synod itself, then, it is proposed that the new Council for Social Action shall consist of the following persons:

Terms expiring in 1959: Mrs. John C. Bennett, New York, New York; Mrs. Charles E. Bingham, Newton, New Jersey; Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Louisville, Kentucky; the Reverend Roy Eilers, Alden, Iowa; the Reverend Joseph Evans, Chicago, Illinois; the Reverend Myron W. Fowell, Boston, Massachusetts; the Reverend Henry C. Koch, Washington, D. C.; Mr. Milton W. Meyers, Chicago, Illinois.

Terms expiring in 1961: Mrs. F. P. Brasseur, Cleveland, Ohio; the Rev.

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REVIEW AND PREVIEW IN SOCIAL ACTION

Coinciding with the meeting of the General Synod, *Social Action* magazine in its June issue deals with the appropriate theme of "Social Action in the United Church."

Feature articles in this issue are "Two Streams — One River," dealing with the historical development of Christian social concern in the Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational Christian denominations; and "For Such a Time as This," a preview or interpretation of the major concerns which will occupy our attention in the formative years of the United Church.

Because of the significance of this issue, which was prepared jointly by the executives of the two uniting agencies, Dr. Ray Gibbons and Dr. Huber F. Klemme, with the helpful and critical assistance of other members of the staffs, a copy is being sent to every minister of the Evangelical and Reformed Church with this issue of *Christian Community.*

In order not to miss any copies of the new, completely merged *Social Action,* all who wish to be more fully informed concerning vital public issues, are encouraged to send $2 with their subscription blank either to the Council for Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York or to the Commission on Christian Social Action.

CHURCH RESPONDS TO FIELD PROGRAM

Synods and congregations are working with increasing effectiveness in making use of the resources of material and staff which the Commission on Christian Social Action has placed at their disposal. Of the synods currently zoned to the Commission, staff members have spent from one to four weeks, in addition to their appearance at the fall synod meetings, in regional or synodical institutes and meetings with local churches or groups in each of the following synods: East Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Reading, Susquehanna, Central Pennsylvania, North Wisconsin, South Wisconsin, and Northern. The synodical committees on Christian social action, in cooperation with synodical councils, presidents, and pastors, arranged itineraries for Associate Secretaries Schlegel and Marcus which brought them before congregations, men's, women's and youth meetings, civic groups, and ministerial associations.

In Susquehanna synod, for example, Nelsen Schlegel shared leadership with John Inman of the Church Peace Union in a discussion of the Christian concern for international problems and the major needs in the area of foreign policy. In a midwestern state both agricultural problems and labor-management relations were matters of deep concern. In more than one northern city, pastors consulted eagerly with Chester Marcus concerning the problems of the inner-city and the opportunities for a racially inclusive ministry.

KANSAS MEN FEATURE SOCIAL ACTION

The executive secretary spent the last week-end in April in Hudson, Kansas, where Trinity Church, currently without a pastor, maintains a fine record with the assistance of neighboring pastors, through the leadership of consecrated laymen like Messrs. Alvin Brensing and Cecil Stargel.

Following a "field trip" over the surrounding territory on Saturday afternoon, Dr. Klemme addressed the church school on the work of the Commission and conducted the Sunday morning worship service.

Sunday afternoon he addressed the Central Kansas Federation of the Churchmen's Brotherhood, attended by over sixty men, some of whom had driven bewteen one and two hundred miles to take part in this spring rally. Following discussion groups on various phases of social action, led by members of the group, their comments and questions were brought together in a panel discussion. After the evening meal, there was a service of dedication conducted by the speaker of the day.

MEET WITH SEMINARIANS

Another kind of opportunity which is welcomed by the staff is that of meeting with the students in our theological seminaries. This year, Mr. Schlegel met with the seminarians at Mission House and addressed the chapel and classes at Lakeland College. Dr. Klemme met with the seniors at Eden Seminary on April 26 and with the middlers at Lancaster Seminary on May 3.

CONSIDER ABUNDANCE

Stimulated by three local representatives at the Pittsburgh Conference on the Church and Economic Life—Dr. Alfred C. Bartholomew, Mr. Charles R. Eshleman Jr., and Mrs. Nevin Schaeffer — Lancaster Synod's Committee on Christian Social Action conducted a Saturday afternoon conference on the topic, "Can We Stand Abundance?" The main address was delivered by Mr. Klemme, with resource leadership by Dr. Charles Spotts, chairman of Lancaster synod's committee on Christian social action, and others.

THE WIDER CIRCLE

That the services of the Commission are not circumscribed is evidenced by the invitations and requests which come from beyond the denomination. Chester Marcus during his stay in Wisconsin made a side trip to New Richland, Minnesota, to address the Southeastern Minnesota Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Other members of the staff have also addressed groups in other denominations, particularly Congregational Christians, who are not very "other" any more!

CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WELFARE

Some forty representatives of the Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational Christian churches attended the National Conference on Policy and Strategy of the Churches in Social Welfare at Atlantic City, May 7 to 10. They represented national missions, benevolent institutions, adult work, world service, church and ministry, and the General Council as well as the Christian social action agencies of the two denominations.

Among the problems considered were the role of church-related health and welfare agencies, the recruitment of professional and non-professional personnel, the relationship of church-related services to other voluntary groups and to public agencies, and the areas calling for social service and social action.

The conference requested the National Council of Churches to consider holding a conference to explore the problems involved in the use of public funds to purchase health and welfare services from church-related agencies or to assist in the construction of buildings or the expansion of facilities. Findings were in the main, however, directed to the attention of the participating denominations for consideration in their own social welfare programs.

A fellowship luncheon for members of the two uniting denominations showed that not only the chairman of the conference, Dr. Leonard Mayo, but several National Council staff members present, are "United."

DEAL WITH FAMILY

In Erdman, Wisconsin, social action leaders of Faith Evangelical and Reformed Church recently sponsored a stimulating panel discussion on "Parent and Child Relations." On the panel were three Sheboygan leaders: Police Chief Steen Heimke, Superintendent of Schools Leslie W. Johnson, Family Service Association Director Charles G. Kelly, and the Reverend F. Nelsen Schlegel, Associate Secretary of the Commission on Christian Social Action. The discussion manifested a deep concern for family welfare and happiness on the part of leaders in various aspects of community life. Police Chief Heimke especially laid emphasis upon the importance of the church as a contributor to family stability and as a deterrent to juvenile delinquency. The three Sheboygan panel members have participated in similar discussions in a number of Wisconsin communities.

NAME 24 TO COUNCIL

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Theodore A. Braun, Henderson, Kentucky; the Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, Nashville, Tennessee; Dr. Percy L. Julian, Franklin Park, Illinois; Mr. Harold C. Kropf, Orrville, Ohio; the Rev. Alfred F. Schroeder, Belleville, Illinois; Mr. Robert D. Smink, Williamsport, Pennsylvania; Professor Hugo W. Thompson, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Terms expiring in 1963: Mr. Herbert E. Baldwin, Westport, Connecticut; Professor Ralph Hyslop, New York, New York; the Rev. Clarence E. Josephson, Elmhurst, Illinois; the Rev. Everett W. MacNair, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Mr. C. B. Newell, Freemansburg, Pennsylvania; Mrs. William D. Powell, Walkersville, Maryland; the Rev. Walter S. Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Mrs. Paul Tanner, Rochester, New York.

The General Synod program calls for a meeting of the Council, as of the other major boards elected by the General Synod, on Thursday afternoon, June 27, at 2:00 p. m.

It is expected that at this time the new Council will elect its officers and make provision for the appointment of committees and the assignment of staff responsibilities.

Preceding the meeting of the General Synod, the executive committees of the two uniting agencies will meet at the Hotel Cleveland.

The fall meeting of the Council and the predecessor agencies will be held in Cleveland at the Hotel Hollenden, October 29-31. At this time, it is expected that more detailed provisions for the United Social Action program will be considered.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

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munity will not be promoted as a subscription magazine. Instead, pastors and local church groups will be encouraged to subscribe to *Social Action* magazine at the special rate of $2.00, with the option that any subscriber to *Social Action* may also receive *Christian Community* without additional charge.

It is the belief of the members and staff of the two agencies that the two publications will admirably supplement each other. *Christian Community* will be concerned especially with news stories of local and denominational social action and with suggestions for action. *Social Action* will offer background articles and interpretation on the major issues in the various fields of Christian social responsibility.

NEW PAMPHLET RESOURCES

Every year the Home and Foreign Mission agencies of the various Protestant denominations cooperate in working out together two major study themes—one dealing with homeland responsibilities and the other with overseas work.

The study theme for the coming year is one in which the Social Action agencies no less than the National Missions groups have a vital stake. It is "Christ, the Church and Race."

The Joint Commission on Missionary Education of the National Council of Churches has prepared for this emphasis a number of resource and study books for various age levels. Two significant works for adults and older youth are *Kingdom Beyond Caste,* by Dean Liston Pope of the Yale Divinity School, and *Progress Against Prejudice* by Robert Root.

The home mission and social action agencies of the Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches have cooperated in preparing a supplementary booklet for this emphasis, interpreting in greater detail the extensive program in this area carried out by the two denominations. This booklet is called *Mission in Brotherhood.* It is available from the Board of National Missions or from the Commission on Christian Social Action at 35c per copy.

This is something more than an ordinary promotional or study book. It portrays, with attractive pictures and in lucid style, the past, present and future of Race Relations in the United Church. Chapters include such headings as "The Past is Prelude," "Integration Among Young People," "Communities Study Themselves," "Work with Indian Americans," and "Unfinished Business: Integration in the Local Church."

The many individuals, groups, and congregations which received *Six Years of Growth* with enthusiasm will be even more pleased with the more comprehensive and up-to-date story which this new booklet tells.

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Supplementing the series of publications in the area of social welfare and speaking of a problem which is deserving of attention in its own right is the new pamphlet, *The Churches and Juvenile Delinquency* by Robert and Muriel Webb, published by the Association Press for the National Council of Churches. Attractively printed, it is available for only 50c from the Commission office.

Mr. and Mrs. Webb, both of whom are trained social workers, have collaborated in dealing sanely with the question of what juvenile delinquency is, what causes it, how it can be treated, and what are the special concerns and resources of the church.

The book is especially to be commended because it avoids placing reliance on one or another panacea. It recognizes the complexity of the problem and the values in many approaches to its solution.

Any church or church group that wants to look at this matter sanely will appreciate this approach which is both scientifically sound and religiously sensitive.

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A great deal has been said and written in recent days about "group dynamics," and "group procedures." Some of the discussion, as occasionally occurs with the discovery or rediscovery of a valuable insight or method, seems esoteric or artificial. Too often it is remote from the specific concerns of people with important work to do.

Many such leaders are nevertheless interested in developing vital educational procedures in the church, whether in areas of social education and action or in other aspects of the church's program. They will welcome the new handbook on group procedures for the local church, *You Can't Be Human Alone,* prepared by Margaret E. Kuhn for the Division of Christian Life and Work and the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches.

Miss Kuhn, who is a member of the Social Education and Action staff of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., has discussed such questions as leaders and groups, various effective group procedures, helpful resources, with understanding and "down to earth" conciseness. Copies may be secured for 40c each from the Office of Publication and Distribution, 120 E. 23rd Street, New York 10, New York.

ECONOMY AND THE BUDGET

President Eisenhower, after presenting his budget, lamenting its size, and inviting Congress to cut it if possible, has at last decided to defend it and ask for its approval. It is difficult to understand why he did not do so from the outset, and it is even more difficult to understand why voters and Congressmen of both parties should expect any real reduction in spending.

Improved efficiency and elimination of waste are always to be desired. But no good case has been made for the kind of trimming which appears to be so popular. The bulk of our spending is for the military defense of ourselves and those nations on whose security our own depends. It is neither possible nor wise to risk this until a better system of security is devised.

Advocates of "economy," therefore, generally single out two areas for their axes. One is overseas economic assistance, on which the possibility of peaceful development so largely hinges. Economic aid, apart from defense support, adds up to less than one-half billion dollars in the prepared budget. True economy, in the sense of lasting effectiveness and maximum efficiency, would indicate a sharp increase of loans and grants for long-range economic development of societies that are trying to "catch up with the twentieth century."

The other area is basic government services, including especially the provisions for protecting and furthering the health and welfare of the American people. These arrangements represent a very small portion of the tax dollar. They are the result of a long process of effort by statemen and citizens, in which the voice and conscience of the church has played no small part. What shall it profit if we lop one or two billion off a $72 billion budget, at the human price of penalizing the next generation?

Those who complain of the national debt may remember the haste with which the last Congress gave tax relief to corporations and large taxpayers. Better still, they should consider that a healthy people and a healthy economy can carry a large tax burden better than an ailing society can handle one that is much smaller.

COMMISSION MEMBER GETS RECOGNITION

On February 21, the American Traditions Project, established by the Fund for the Republic, cited a number of Americans who have shown courage and good sense in their devotion to our traditions of freedom and justice. Among those so cited were the Reverend Theodore A. Braun, pastor of Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church, Henderson, Kentucky, and his Presbyterian colleague, the Reverend Sumpter Logan, who stood up for justice when prejudice and passion sought to stop school integration. Mr. Braun is a member of the Commission on Christian Social Action of the denomination, chairman of South Indiana Synod's committee on Christian Social Action, and president of the Henderson Ministerial Association.

OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY

In St. Louis County, Missouri, an active social action group made up of representatives of various churches, has been at work for three years, exploring community needs and working for desirable local goals. Recently it assumed responsibility for several Hungarian refugee families, securing housing and employment for them, and making them feel at home in their new land. This group observed its third anniversary with a fellowship dinner and a service of worship at Immanuel Church, Ferguson. Dr. Huber F. Klemme, executive secretary of the denominational Commission on Christian Social Action, preached the sermon; and Dr. Elmer J. F. Arndt, former chairman of the Commission, installed the new officers of the group, headed by Mrs. Marie McCullough, of Kirkwood.

Christian Community

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A COMMITTEE GETS STARTED

St. John's Echo, published by St. John's Church, of Hamilton, Ohio, recently included a report on how its Christian social action committee got started. At the first meeting it took the following steps:

—expressed its concern for action to meet the problems of youth;

—recommended the study of the General Synod statement on "A Christian Approach to Race Relations";

—showed the film, *Pressure Groups,* to see how community improvements may be achieved;

—ordered a dozen copies of *Some ABC's of Christian Social Action* for use by the committee and in the church library.

Losing no time, Chairman Merlin Getz reported on its work at the monthly meeting of the church council. It looks as if this committee means business!

A WORD ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

In order to clarify the Commission's policy in offering assistance to members of our churches who attend conferences and seminars sponsored by the Commission, we request that pastors note the following conditions covering such grants and cooperate in complying with them:

1. *Ordinarily,* conferences sponsored by the Commission are open to any members of our church who fulfill the requirements specified in the conference announcement. Registration application and fee, where required, should be sent in early to insure acceptance, but acceptance does not in itself imply that assistance will be given.

2. *In some instances,* members of synodical or local church committees on Christian social action may secure financial assistance in attending such conferences. Ordinarily, the *maximum* available from the Commission would be one-third of cost of registration, travel (by least expensive way), room, and meals. (In the case of the summer institutes, the maximum offered is one-half of board and room with no allowance for travel.) Synodical committees are encouraged to match this amount, and the individual (or his church) is expected to pay the remainder.

3. *In all cases,* requests for assistance must be submitted *in advance* of the conference upon a special form, provided on request by the Commission office. This application must provide all information requested, including sources and amounts of any other assistance hoped for or assured, and must be endorsed by the chairman of the synodical committee on Christian social action.

Synods, congregations, and organizations are, of course, encouraged to pay all or part of as many persons' expenses as possible. This will not only conserve the limited funds at the disposal of the Commission but also enable more representatives to attend and bring back the information and experience provided by these opportunities.